

Appln. No. 10/791,496

Attorney Docket No. 12400-007

II. Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 12-14, 17, 20 and 21 are being amended and claims 4, 6, and 16 are being cancelled by this Amendment. Accordingly, after entering the above amendments, claims 1-3, 5, 7-15, and 17-23 remain pending.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 14 has been objected to for informalities. Claims 1-13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by DePottey et al. Claims 4, 5, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over DePottey et al. The Examiner has allowed claims 14, 15, and 17-23 and has stated that claims 6-9, 13 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections.

Claim 14 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and claims 4, 6, and 16 have been cancelled.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 6-9, 13 and 16, if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the description and cooperation of the recited element. Claim 1 now incorporates subject matter of claim 6, deemed allowable by the Examiner. Further, claim 13, deemed allowable by the Examiner, has been rewritten into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claim 1, from which it previously depended.

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BRINKS
HOFFER
GILSON
ALONE

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Since claim 1 has been amended to include claim 6 material, which the Examiner deemed allowable, and the dependencies of claim 1 have been amended accordingly, the Examiner's rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 are now moot. Upon a careful review of all the claims, Applicants are entering a number of additional claim amendments to claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 14, 17, 20, and 21 to improve the clarity of the claims and to provide proper antecedent basis for claimed elements.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

September 5, 2006
Date



Steven L. Oberholtzer (Reg. No. 30,670)

BRINKS
HOFFER
GILSON
ELTONE